

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 16, 2017

Reflection on the Congressional Baseball Game

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Since 1909, Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have played in an annual bipartisan baseball game to raise money for worthy charities. This year, the Congressional Baseball Game benefited The Capitol Police Memorial Fund, The Washington Literacy Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, and the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation.

Although Democrats and Republicans have been playing against one another for more than 100 years, the Congressional Baseball Game is not really about winning or losing. Each of us roots for our own team, but together we celebrate sportsmanship and camaraderie among Members of Congress who represent Americans from shore to shore.

This week, I was saddened to learn that Members of Congress practicing for the Congressional Baseball Game became victims of a violent attack.

On Wednesday morning, a gunman opened fire on a baseball field near Washington, DC, where members of the Republican baseball team were practicing for last night's game. My friend Whip Scalise and several others, including two Capitol Police officers, were wounded during the attack.

I am grateful to the Capitol Police for their heroic and quick response that undoubtedly saved many lives on the field. Today and every day, I appreciate their service to Congress, staff, and those who visit the Capitol.

I hope you will join me in praying for those who were affected by this incident and wishing the wounded a fast recovery.

Days like Wednesday remind us that blood banks like the Red Cross need our help. After the incident at the ballfield, I took some time to donate blood at a blood drive a few blocks away from the Capitol. Please take a moment to consider how you can contribute to the needs of your fellow North Texans and others who will need a pint of blood today.

Last night, I was proud to stand with my fellow Members of Congress to support the teams playing in this bipartisan event. During weeks like this one, I am reminded that all Members – regardless of party – come to Washington out of a spirit of service to our country and the American people.

While we sometimes disagree on policy, we must always respect one another as participants in American democracy who seek the good of the country.

As House Chaplain Reverend Patrick Conroy prayed after the attack, “May this day be characterized by kindness, good will and compassion, one to another.”

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.